HELPING TO HEAL:

A Training on Mental Health Response to Terrorism

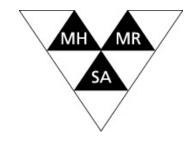
Field Guide

Prepared by: Community Resilience Project of Northern Virginia

Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

January 2004





CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Working in a Disaster Environment	3
Conducting an Onsite Assessment	3
Identifying the "Leader" in a Disaster Environment	4
Working Alongside Others	5
Range of Reactions and Appropriate Interventions and Services	7
Common Reactions to Trauma	7
Problematic Reactions	9
Intervention Goals	11
Overview of Interventions and Services	11
Serving Different Populations	17
Providing Services to Children and Older Adults	18
Approaches for Stress Prevention and Management for First Responders	21
Emergency Risk Communication	23
Working with Media Spokespersons	23
Self-Care for the Mental Health Worker	25
Emotional Care	25
Self-Monitoring Checklist	26
Some Things One Can Do to Reduce Stress and Renew Energy	28
Personal Safety	29
Role of the Paraprofessional	31
What Can a Paraprofessional Do?	31
What Can a Paraprofessional NOT Do?	31
Paraprofessional Services and Interventions	31
Communicating Effectively With Survivors	33

INTRODUCTION

This field manual is part of a larger training kit that was developed to better prepare mental health professionals and paraprofessionals for the early phases of the response to a terrorist or mass trauma event. The kit includes a CD-ROM, a manual, this field guide, and several collateral materials, such as a resource bibliography, a preparedness checklist, an "Assess your Stress" wallet card for disaster mental health workers mental health providers, and a kit feedback form.

This field guide condenses and focuses material contained in *Helping to Heal: A Training on Mental Health Response to Terrorism* (Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, January 2004). It is intended to be a quick reference guide for those providing mental health services to survivors of a terrorist attack. It contains essential information, such as practical guidelines and checklists, for providing mental health services. For additional information on what is contained in the field guide, please see the *Helping to Heal* CD-ROM or manual.

This field guide was produced by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.